

# Security Guard

FEBRUARY 1998

## Security Guard Requirements for Registration

**S**ecurity guards are employed by licensed private patrol operators to protect persons or property or to prevent theft. To be eligible to apply for a security guard registration, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be 18 or older.
- Undergo a criminal history background check through the Department of Justice to be evaluated on an individual basis.
- Complete the *Powers to Arrest* training course and pass an examination. This is a two-hour training course covering responsibilities and ethics in citizen arrest, relationship with police, limitations on power to arrest, restrictions on searches and seizures, criminal and civil liabilities, and personal and employer liability. The training and exam may be administered by any private patrol operator or by a certified training facility.
- Submit your completed application with two fingerprint cards and \$57 (\$25 registration fee and \$32 Department of Justice fingerprint processing fee) to the Department of Consumer Affairs Licensing Division, P.O. Box 989002, West Sacramento, CA 95798-9002.

Once you have submitted your application and the appropriate fees, you may work with a TEMPORARY registration card as an UNARMED security guard for 120 days until your registration is issued or denied. *You may NOT work with a temporary registration card if you have been convicted of a crime.*

### Firearms Permit:

- You may not carry a gun on duty without having been issued a *firearms permit* by the Department of Consumer Affairs. To apply for a firearms permit, you must: (1) pass a course in the carrying and use of firearms, (2) submit an application with two fingerprint cards for criminal record screening, (3) be a citizen or have permanent legal alien status, and (4) as of January 1, 1998, pay a \$164 fee (\$80 application, \$28 firearm eligibility application, \$32 Department of Justice fingerprint processing, \$24 Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint processing).
- The 14-hour firearms (8 hours classroom, 6 hours range) training course covers moral and legal aspects, firearms nomenclature,

*To become registered by the California Department of Consumer Affairs as a security guard, you need to meet these requirements. Security guards have no greater police powers than ordinary citizens, and they can only make citizen arrests.*

weapon handling and shooting fundamentals, emergency procedures, and range training. The course must be given by a certified firearms training instructor. Written and range exams are administered at the end of the course. Costs of training are determined by the training facility. For a list of licensed training schools, call the number given below. Note: a firearms qualification card expires two years from the date of issuance. An applicant must requalify four times during the life of the permit: twice during the first year after the date of issuance, and twice during the second year. Requalifications must be at least four months apart.

- You may apply for **both** a guard registration and a firearms permit *at the same time* for a fee of \$189 (as of January 1, 1998).

*A firearms permit issued by the Department does not authorize carrying a concealed weapon. A concealed weapon may NOT be carried on duty without a permit issued by local authorities.*

### **Tear Gas Permit**

The law requires those who wish to carry *tear gas* on duty to complete two-hour training approved by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

### **Baton Permit**

To carry a baton on duty, you must be a registered security guard and complete an eight-hour training course from a certified instructor. For a list of licensed training schools, call the number given below. The only acceptable batons are side-handled, straight, and side-handled collapsible batons.

Applications for registration as a security guard are available from private patrol operators or security guard training facilities.

For lists of firearms and baton training schools licensed by the Department of Consumer Affairs, or if you have questions about registration as a security guard, call 1-800-952-5210. If you have questions about your current Guard Card, call 916-322-4000. Schools must also be approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education. To find out if a school is approved, call the Bureau at 916-445-3427. (Note: this council became a bureau of the Department of Consumer Affairs on January 1, 1998).